

I claim:

1. A flexible pouch arrangement comprising:
  - (a) a pouch surrounding wall defining an interior volume, a bottom end, and a top end;
  - (b) a gusset closing the bottom end of the pouch surrounding wall;
  - (c) a score line in said pouch surrounding wall; said score line being spaced from said gusset and from said top end to result in a removable pouch section;
    - (i) said removable pouch section comprising portions of said pouch surrounding wall between said score line and said top end;
    - (ii) said score line being spaced from said top end so that a length of said removable pouch section is at least 25% of a height of a remaining portion of the pouch surrounding wall; and
    - (iii) said gusset having an outermost width of at least 30% of the height of the remaining portion of the pouch surrounding wall.
2. A pouch arrangement according to claim 1 further comprising:
  - (a) first and second tear notches in said pouch surrounding wall and aligned with said score line.
3. A pouch arrangement according to claim 1 wherein:
  - (a) said score line is spaced from said top end so that a dimension of said removable pouch section is greater than or equal to an outermost width of said gusset.
4. A pouch arrangement according to claim 1 wherein:
  - (a) said pouch surrounding wall comprises first and second opposing panel sections joined by first and second side seals.

5. A pouch arrangement according to claim 4 further comprising:
  - (a) a first gripping tab in said first side seal spaced between said gusset and said score line; and
  - (b) a second gripping tab in said second side seal spaced between said gusset and said score line.
6. A pouch arrangement according to claim 5 wherein:
  - (a) said first gripping tab comprises a portion of said first side seal; the first gripping tab being formed by a first inwardly extending projection of the first side seal; the first inwardly extending projection defining a cross-sectional area of at least 100 mm<sup>2</sup>; and
  - (b) said second gripping tab comprises a portion of said second side seal; the second gripping tab being formed by a second inwardly extending projection of the second side seal; the second inwardly extending projection defining a cross-sectional area of at least 100 mm<sup>2</sup>.
7. A pouch arrangement according to claim 1 further comprising:
  - (a) a food product in the interior volume.
8. A flexible pouch arrangement comprising:
  - (a) first and second opposing panel sections; each of the first and second panel sections having a first and second side edge extending between a top and bottom edge;
  - (b) a bottom gusset joining the first and second panel sections together adjacent to the first and second panel section bottom edges;
  - (c) a first side seal joining together the first and second panel sections along respective first side edges;
    - (i) the first side seal extending between the bottom gusset and at least partially toward the first and second panel section top edges;

- (d) a second side seal joining together the first and second panel sections along respective second side edges;
  - (i) the second side seal extending between the bottom gusset and at least partially toward the first and second panel section top edges;
- (e) a score line in said first and second panel sections and extending between said first and second side seals; said score line being spaced from said bottom gusset and from said top edge to result in a removable pouch section;
  - (i) said removable pouch section comprising portions of said first and second panel sections between said score line and said top edge;
  - (ii) said score line being spaced from said top edge so that a dimension of said removable pouch section is greater than or equal to an outermost width of said bottom gusset;
- (f) a first tear notch in said first side seal aligned with said score line;
- (g) a second tear notch in said second side seal aligned with said score line;
- (h) a first gripping tab in said first side seal spaced between said bottom gusset and said first tear notch; and
- (i) a second gripping tab in said second side seal spaced between said bottom gusset and said second tear notch.

9. A pouch arrangement according to claim 8 wherein:

- (a) said first tear notch extends into a portion of said first gripping tab; and
- (b) said second tear notch extends into a portion of said second gripping tab.

10. A pouch arrangement according to claim 8 wherein:

- (a) said first gripping tab comprises a portion of said first side seal; the first gripping tab being formed by a first inwardly extending projection of the first side seal; the first inwardly extending projection defining a cross-sectional area of at least 100 mm<sup>2</sup>; and

- (b) said second gripping tab comprises a portion of said second side seal; the second gripping tab being formed by a second inwardly extending projection of the second side seal; the second inwardly extending projection defining a cross-sectional area of at least 100 mm<sup>2</sup>.

11. A pouch arrangement according to claim 10 wherein:

- (a) the first gripping tab is wave-shaped; and
- (b) the second gripping tab is wave-shaped.

12. A method of using a bottom-gusset, stand-up pouch; the method comprising:

- (a) tearing the pouch at a tear notch and along a score line to remove a section of the pouch and leave a remaining pouch-bowl; the remaining pouch-bowl having a bottom gusset joining first and second wall sections and a bowl rim providing access to an interior of the pouch-bowl;
  - (i) the bottom gusset having an outermost width of at least 30% of a height of the first and second wall sections;
  - (ii) the section of the pouch removed having a length of at least 25% of the height of the first and second wall sections; and
- (b) accessing material in the interior of the pouch-bowl.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein:

- (a) the bottom gusset has an outermost width of at least 50% of the height of the first and second wall sections; and
- (b) the step of accessing material includes inserting an eating utensil into the interior.

14. A method according to claim 12 wherein:

- (a) said step of tearing includes tearing the pouch at a first of a pair of tear notches along a score line.

15. A method of using a bottom-gusset, stand-up pouch; the pouch containing material therein; the method comprising:
  - (a) tearing the pouch along a score line to remove a section of the pouch and leave a remaining pouch-bowl holding the material; the remaining pouch-bowl having a bottom gusset joining first and second wall sections and a bowl rim providing access to the material in the pouch-bowl;
  - (b) covering the pouch-bowl by placing the removed section on the bowl rim to form a lid;
  - (c) after said step of covering, heating the pouch-bowl; and
  - (d) after said step of heating, grasping the pouch-bowl along first and second gripping tabs.
16. A method according to claim 15 further including:
  - (a) after said step of heating, removing the lid from the bowl rim.
17. A method according to claim 16 wherein:
  - (a) said step of removing the lid occurs before said step of grasping.
18. A method according to claim 15 wherein:
  - (a) said step of tearing includes tearing along a first tear notch aligned with the score line.
19. A method according to claim 15 wherein:
  - (a) said step of grasping includes grasping the pouch-bowl along first and second gripping tabs;
    - (i) each of the first and second gripping tabs comprising a portion of a respective side seal of the pouch-bowl; each of the first and second gripping tabs defining a cross-sectional area of at least 100 mm<sup>2</sup>.

20. A method according to claim 19 wherein:
  - (a) said step of heating includes microwaving the pouch-bowl.